

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2755

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HAGUE

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T VIENNA 4283

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: 13 MAY DISCUSSION WITH
NETHERLANDS REF VON BALLUSECK

1. DEPUTY NETHERLANDS MBFR REP LTG (RET.) A.W.F.
VON BALLUSECK, ACTING UNDER LOCAL INSTRUCTIONS,
VISITED US MBFR DEL 13 MAY TO ADVISE THAT DUTCH
FOREIGN MINISTER HAS PASSED A SERIES OF MBFR
RELATED QUESTIONS ON AIR AND NUCLEAR MATTERS TO
DUTCH AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. VON BALLUSECK
INDICATED DUTCH MBFR REP HERE ALSO INTERESTED IN
ANSWERS AND AMERICAN THINKING SO HE CAN ADVISE
FOREIGN MININSTER PROPERLY FROM VIENNA VIEWPOINT.
FOREIGN MINISTER IS REQUESTING U.S. THOUGHTS

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PRIOR TO THESE TYPE QUESTIONS BEING DEBATED IN

NATO CIRCLES, ALLEGEDLY TO HELP
ESTABLISH DUTCH POSITION.

2. TYPICAL QUESTIONS FOLLOW:

A. WHAT IS THE US EVALUATION ON THE TIMING OF PASSING
NUCLEAR HINT OR SUGGESTION TO THE PACT? WOULD THIS BE
DONE IN VIENNA?

B. IS THE US STILL THINKING OF THE EARLIER ILLUSTRATIVE OPTION 3?

C. IF ANSWER TO B ABOVE IS YES, HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO
SALT? HOW DO FORWARD-BASED SYSTEMS TIE IN? WOULD IT BE BETTER TO
DEAL WITH THIS GENERAL PROBLEM IN MBFR?, OR SALT?

D. SINCE PACT MEDIUM RANGE MISSILES ARE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE NGA,
IF FORWARD BASED SYSTEMS ARE INCLUDED IN MBFR, HOW DO YOU
STAY WITHIN THE NGA? WOULD THE MBFR AREA BE EXPANDED BEYOND
CENTRAL EUROPE? WHAT OTHER CHANGES WOULD BE NECESSARY?

E. IS IT POSSIBLE TO AVOID THESE FBS DIFFICULTIES BY CHANGING
THE COMPOSITION OF AN OPTION 3 BY LIMITING THIS TYPE OPTION
TO GROUND FORCES ONLY, I.E., REMOVE THE F-4S FROM THE PACKAGE?

F. WHAT DO YOU ASK FROM THE OTHER SIDE AS A QUID IF NATO
VOLUNTEERS SOME NUCLEARS? A REDUCTION OF SIMILAR PACT
NUCLEAR SYSTEMS? A FREEZE ON CURRENT NUMBERS? OR WHAT?

G. WHAT IS THE PRELIMINARY US THINKING ON HOW AND WHERE THIS
NUCLEAR PROBLEM WOULD BE HANDLED PROCEDURALLY? IN BRUSSELS?
IN CAPITALS? IF IN BRUSSELS, HOW? IN THE NAC? IN THE
INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF? IN THE NPG?

H. THE VERIFICATION OF A WARHEAD WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE VERY
DIFFICULT. WHAT ARE THE US THOUGHTS ON VERIFYING AN OPTION 3 TYPE
WITHDRAWAL, ON THE NATO SIDE? ON THE PACT SIDE?

3. THIS MESSAGE FURNISHED AS ADVANCE INFORMATION IN EVENT
DUTCH AMBASSADOR HAS NOT YET MADE THIS REQUEST THROUGH
WASHINGTON CHANNELS. HUMES

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